



HEAL Movement



ANNUAL REPORT FOR APRIL 2016 TO MARCH 2017



**Near Scott Christian College
Nagercoil - 629 003, Kanyakumari District
Tamil Nadu, India
Ph: 04652-228496
Email: heal_m@hotmail.com
Web: www.heal.org.in**

HUMAN EDUCATION AND ACTION FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENT

(HEAL MOVEMENT)

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1. Introduction

HEAL works with fishermen community and agricultural community, including landless agricultural workers such as coconut farm workers, tree climbers, workers involved in making fibres and threads from husks and allied activities.

Because of the rising sea level the water masses surge more and more into the interior which leads to loss of land and salinization of the fresh waters. Valuable sand dunes which on one hand are a protection shield between settled land and ocean and are important on the other hand for the water quality and the water holding capacity, are threatened by erosion.

The salinization and the contamination of the drinking and service water are a substantial risk to health of the target population in regard to their use of drinking water. Regarding the field irrigation for agricultural activities the water is also not fit for use. The sulphides poison despite that the sensitive breeding grounds of many fish species and reduce as already above mentioned the income possibilities of the fisher communities.

To address these and other issues HEAL and other partners are implementing the project "Improvement of living conditions by improving protection of natural resources and sustainable resource management" in Kanyakumari district. This report talks about this aspect too.

2. Child Development

Education

More and more children are getting enrolled in schools in pre-primary, primary, middle and secondary education. However, these children find it difficult to go

through a learning process in schools. The present educational system along with indifferent and insensitive untrained teachers and lack of proper sanitation facilities make learning more difficult for children. Adolescent girls attend classes having exhausted their energy after completing their household tasks. Hence most children are unable to reach the minimum level of reading and writing.

In such a situation, HEAL supported 20 children with supplementary nutrition and another 74 bright children to continue their academic education.

Sponsor Relations Committee (SRC)

Formation of SRCs:

In all sponsorship procedures, the best interests of the child is paramount consideration. The fundamental principle behind the guidelines is every child's right to grow up in a family. In accordance with the child's age and level of development, he/she has the right to be consulted and to have his/her opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting him/her. Hence, taking into consideration these principles, HEAL formed Sponsor Relations Committees (SRCs) at village level to supervise the adoption of procedures as per the given procedures.

Strengthening SR Committees:

HEAL trained the members of SRCs on the guidelines to be followed in the sponsorship of children at the village level. The training programme outlined the roles and responsibilities of members of SRCs.

Sponsor Day Celebrations

Each year we celebrate Sponsor Day to bring an event full of fun, education, inspiration and fellowship. This year's banquet was not different! It was done with the support of the village people. The entire celebrations were sponsored by the respective village communities that made a big difference.

Child Participation

Children Activity Centres

HEAL established 12 Children Activity Centres (CACs) during the reporting period. The Children Activity Centres were cumulatively supporting 449 children – 253 girls and 196 boys. CACs helped children from poor fisher families for their completion of school education. CACs were developed to provide practical knowledge in sustainable utilization of the resources around them.

CACs empowered children to understand coastal ecology and general environmental protection. CACs were to prepare children for a better performance in their school lessons and provide support to do their homework with individual attention and explaining the difficult lessons. Children were taught to play, study and coaching including Songs, Dance, General knowledge and Environmental education. Staff members categorized the activities of the CACs into daily, weekly and monthly and special activities.

The policy of ecological child rights was inspiring the young minds. Children's school education was improving and school drop out of children was prevented and they were prevented from becoming child labour. The staff members sensitized the community on the need and importance of CACs in the development of children and motivated the community to provide space for conducting CACs in the villages.

Eco Clubs for Children:

3394 children were members of Eco Clubs established in 34 Schools. They actively participated in eco events organized in schools. Eco Club general meetings were conducted once in a month except during the examination months of September, December and March of the each educational year starting from June to April. During the eco club meetings the children brought out the issues concerning their surrounding environment.

Eco club children were routinely sensitized on systematic implementation of the project activities such as tree planting, school garden, utility of rain water from utilization system, organizing the Eco Clubs on International days for protecting

nature, ecology, climate change and conservation of inter-generational ecological and bio diversity resources.

Ecological orientation on the importance of Sand dunes, bio diversity and mangrove forests provided by the resource persons. The need for protection of environment and conservation of ecological resources, disaster management, solid waste management, songs on child rights and ecological rights and games were taught to them by other resource persons They were provided orientation on Ecology and Child rights with special focus on water, land and air pollution.

Environment Education in Schools

Ecological education for children studying in middle school was taught as a regular education linking the Eco Clubs, school garden, rain water harvesting and tree planting etc. Ecological Education was taught to 3372 children in 36 schools with books like any other regular subjects for 6th, 7th and 8th Standard studying children.

Ecological Education was the important pedagogue and formal educational aid as a book format for the purpose of enhancing their theoretical learning. Ecological Education was the key aspect of this projects' activities related to eco club, International days for nature and ecology, rainwater harvesting, school garden, and community level development of eco youths as the protectors of environment and custodian of ecology in future.

Ecological Education asserted the ecological rights of children and later as youths in terms of learning, participation, planning and implementing environmental protection measures and generate outputs through alternative environmental action on a long term process basis.

Child Protection

CRC level Activity for Children

HEAL introduced United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) level activities for children to learn their rights in four ways. (1) They involved in brainstorming, discussing, and itemizing their needs to be healthy and safe, and to develop to their full potential. We have used visual resources to support children

to learn their rights. (2) Introduced the Convention on the Rights of the Child by reading the summary of the CRC as a class, and viewing and discussing short animated online cartoons based on the CRC articles. (3) Using the simplified version of the CRC, children were assigned to depict through painting violation of the right and then paint another depicting an affirmation of the right. (4) Children were given a case study about a teenager from a village followed by a discussion. As a class and in small groups, the children discussed how they could take action.

Orientation to Children on Safety and Security

As far as HEAL is concerned, safety means protection from accidents, danger, risk, hazards, or injury. Safety is related to the health and well-being of people at work and in other activities. Safety and Security of children have always been an inseparable element in the working of HEAL. Hence, we organised an orientation programme to children on their safety and security.

Orientation to Parents on Safety and Security

We also think that parents being one of our significant stakeholders, the parents need to be aware of the safety and security measures being followed at HEAL. During the orientation programme for parents on safety and security, we explained to the parents that security is a condition of being protected from planned, malicious, and criminal incidents. We have explained the difference between safety and security to the parents.

Training to members of Child Protection Committees

HEAL organised training programmes to the members of Child Protection Committee members. The training programme included topics like Children as Right Holders, Understanding Vulnerable Children, Safeguarding Children, Child Protection Framework in India, CPCs in Action, Understanding their Role, Allies for CPCs, Support Structures and Pathways for Action, CPCs' Responsibilities, and Understanding the Status of Children.

The training programmes also included topics on the role of COC and Child Labour, CPC and Child Marriage, CPC and Child Trafficking and CPC and Other Key Issues.

Monthly meetings of Child Protection Committee members

The CPC members came together on quarterly basis and reviewed, discussed, and passed resolutions to address the problems of child protection in close collaboration with concerned agencies involved in child protection. They were also committed to improving the lives of vulnerable children and their families with better laws, policies, systems and practices.

3. Youth Empowerment

Education:

Providing financial support to poor youth for higher education

There are many students in our target villages who give up on their dreams due to lack of financial support. Even though they are academically brilliant, and have come as far as college on their merit, they are forced to drop out at this stage and find odd jobs.

HEAL identifies deserving and academically good students from families with a poor economic background. The scholarship programme provides them financial and other assistance for higher studies. The major focus is to help students to set up a career in Engineering, Technology or Medicine. HEAL provided support to such poor youth to achieve what they deserve by giving them financial and other assistance.

Linking unaffordable youth with government and aided institutions

HEAL is also involved in identifying government and aided institutions to help students from poor families to get admitted in such educational institutions for higher studies.

Capacity Building of Youth

Empowerment of Eco Youth

The overriding objective of the Eco-Youth is the protection of the natural resources and disaster prevention. They are also involved in several project activities like protection of water sources and sand dunes, sustainable re-naturalisation of mangrove forests and river deltas and ecological cultivation. 25 young people per community form the Eco-Youth participated as Peer-Group in the project activities.

348 youths have participated in the training workshops and meetings for Eco Youths in as many as 14 such events organized for youths at National level, State, District and Cluster level. 8 Representatives from Eco Youth TN were given training on the importance of conserving water from pollutions to represent Tamil Nadu partners at Third National Youth convention at Warda.

State level training of Eco youths has covered topics such as the rights of the Indian Citizen in conservation of the ecology and nature as enshrined in our Constitution both rights guaranteed such as social, economic and environmental justice and the duties as per the fundamental directive principles.

Resource persons have taught them about rights and duties as an enabled citizen as they become adult at the age of 18 years. Issues related to water, air and land pollution as a result of unsustainable development and aggravated use of natural resources beyond the need of people. Concepts informed to them through State, District and Cluster level has led to attitudinal changes among them.

Eco youths continued learning on ecological rights and exposure to the practical activities ranging from tree plantings, restoration of sand dunes, and water resources at local level, and gaining cultural skills for exhibiting their ideas on protection of air, water and land resources at State level are the solid outcomes of the activities related to Eco Youth.

Skills Training

Youth needs to be employed for earning decent income. The key determinants for success in the labour market is education and training. The overall purpose of youth skills training programmes is to develop employable skills to obtain long-term benefits in employment. The skills training aims at making positive changes among youth in knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours. Skills training interventions are the most widely used youth employment intervention worldwide and are increasingly combined with other measures to boost employability.

With this perspective, HEAL continued to impart the following employable skills among 50 youth:

1. Training on Sari Designing and Handicraft making 25
2. Training on cell phone mechanism 15 youth
3. Beautician Training to 10

Strengthening Youth Resource Centre by Youth

India has more than 42% of its populations under the category of youth. Hence empowerment and development of youth is more crucial to rural areas since majority of the youth population hail from rural India. We have different policies and programmes for the enhancement of youth in our country. These resource have to be collected, documented and stored for providing valuable information to youth. Hence, HEAL opened a Youth Resource Centre that is to be managed by youth themselves. This unit, HEAL hopes, will meet the holistic needs and aspirations of our youth living in the villages.

Resource Mapping of Skill Building Centres

HEAL believes that youth can accomplish anything when they work together. This will be more effective when they work with teachers, administrators, school support staff, parents, and community members. They can communicate, plan, and find solutions together.

This way HEAL involved the rural youth to identify the existing and potential resources on Skill Building Centres in India through Resource Mapping. The youth prepared a list of available Skill Building Centres in India. This would raise the achievement of all youth and close the achievement gap between the rich and economically disadvantaged youth.

Start-up Workshops

As part of providing employment opportunities, HEAL organised Start-up Workshops for youth with the following objectives:

1. To promote entrepreneurial behaviour;
2. To encourage risk taking in a safe environment;
3. To learn start-up entrepreneurial concepts and tools;

4. To share creative processes;
5. To know one another better;
6. To develop ideas that could become real businesses; and,
7. To create energy and excitement in your group which continues on and leads to a positive experience by community members.

These workshops are lighter steps. However, every workshop was customised with five steps:

1. Bring or make up an idea;
2. Pitch the idea;
3. Design the idea;
4. Building the idea; and,
5. Learning the lessons.

HEAL successfully completed five workshops benefiting 150 youth from the target villages.

Facilitating youth to access government benefits

HEAL explained various welfare programmes and schemes offered by state and central government for the benefit of rural youth. It facilitated the trained youth to access government benefits through interactions with department officials.

4. Women Empowerment.

Workshops for women SHGs

So as to improve the livelihood of women in our target villages, HEAL organised a workshop on value addition and marketing. More than 50 women Self Help Group members participated in the workshop. The workshop covered subjects like value addition and marketing. The topics were taught by experts in the respective fields. A question and answer session was conducted to provide insight and clarity on the topics taught.

Linking to Government Social Benefits

With a view to avail a variety of governmental Social welfare programmes designed to protect citizens from the economic risks and insecurities of life, HEAL

explained various benefits available to the elderly, the sick, children, youth, women, unemployed, unorganised workers, etc. It helped them to link with various government social benefits.

Training to SHG members on child rights, etc.

Training programmes on Child Rights was organized for the women members of SHGs. These SHGs are promoted by HEAL and the training programme was organized in cooperation with SHG members.

The major objectives of the training programmes were to sensitize the women member of SHGs, who are from poor and marginalized communities, about the various aspects of child rights and child protection issues. These programmes aimed at empowerment of women members of SHGs who participate and further take it to co-members of the respective SHGs and their neighbours through their active interactions in the society.

Various Acts and UN conventions related to child rights such as Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993; The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976; Child Labour Issues & Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986; SC/ST issues & Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Civil Liberties Act, 1988 & The Forest Rights Act, 2006; and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 and its optional protocols were among the main topics of the training programmes.

They have great potential in increasing awareness about child rights among members and non-SHG members of their community. In our training programmes women SHG members were the means and end beneficiaries.

Meetings with PRI members and local bodies for leveraging schemes to community

We know that community work with a variety of local partners, including Panchayats, SHGs, NGOs and CSOs. The leaders of these organisations address these issues every day and they need a variety of partnerships to fully leverage the available schemes to the community.

The Panchayats are expected to play an important role in rural development in the villages. Plan documents of both the central and state governments and various committees have emphasized the importance of these bodies in the polity. Five-year plans laid special emphasis on the role of Panchayats in rural developments. Hence, HEAL arranged meetings with PRI members and local bodies for leveraging schemes to community.

5. Ecology and Environment

Maintenance of Nature Trail and Mangrove Forests

Nature trail has developed a model with marine species in the ponds. Nature trail has introduced the children in the target villages to the importance of resource protecting dealings with the surrounding nature. School children, college students and local villagers learn through their visits on how they can preserve the resources.

The nature trail is used for excursions of the visitors of the Manakudy mangrove forests but also for the demonstration in seminars for sensitization of people on environment. The District Collector, Revenue officials and officials from Fisheries Department visited the Nature trial recently and appreciated the efforts of HEAL and submitted a proposal to the Government of Tamil Nadu to develop it further for Coastal Eco tourism.

The outcome of the nature trail is visible as it has ponds, mini model sand dune covered with vegetation, corals and shells inside the pond, ornamental plants and rhizophora plants that are planted inside the nature trail as a model. In the coming years, the nature trail is expected to attain more visibility as the tree plants, shrubs and other species consumes enormous time to attain normal level of growth.

The nature trail stands as a testimony on the need for the conservation of the marine eco system and it is serving as a practical learning natural laboratory for ecological students, eco club members and science students. Nature trail is established in which the ecological balance and the benefit of the people of an intact environment is demonstrated.

Water samples, Analysis and Distribution

Water Users Associations (WUAs) comprising people who use Ponds and Wells are active in discussing about the protecting water resources. Water samples are tested to find out the water quality.

Water Users Associations are maintaining the water bodies. People are sensitive and motivated to maintain and safeguarding water resources. Water quality of the open wells after water sample analysis is useful to find the potable nature of the well water.

Water Users Associations have taken up the ownership of the water bodies. Water Users Committees for open wells and ponds are supervising the effective utilization of the water resources and realized the value of water resources in the prevailing water scarcity in the coastal villages.

Solid Waste Management and Distribution of Equipment to Women

12 Garbage tanks are constructed in 5 coastal villages and 8 tanks are completed for dumping segregated wastes for recycling as manures and eco-friendly disposals.

Sensitization workshops on solid waste management has led to public awareness among the people of villages in resolving the solid waste crisis. Construction of 12 garbage tanks is considered by the people as an important development.

Sensitization workshops on solid waste management has changed the mind-set of the people. Peer group formation among the trained participants is taking place to actively participate in the solid waste management.

Training on Waste Disposal and Recycle Tanks

The solid waste management training has led to new awareness of solid waste disposal and creating manure out of the solid waste is a new technique for the people. After the training on solid waste management, motivation for recycling of solid wastes has been found among the participants of the training. The complete outcome of this activity could be assessed after a period 6 months.

Workshops on Safe Environment and Sustainable Agriculture

The main focus of the workshops for safe environment and sustainable agriculture is on the effect of chemical fertilisers and pesticides on drinking water, soil fertility, climate and environment, the demand for recycling of degradable bio-waste for the ecological agriculture and for the change from conventional to ecological agriculture.

540 in agriculture working persons, especially those who stay in the proximity of fragile eco systems, were sensitised in 18 one-time workshops (one workshop per 30 participants) for the problems created through exploitive and non-sustainable agriculture. There they learned about the alternatives to the currently practised cultivation methods, which are characterised by disregard to water protection and intensive input of chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

Another topic of the workshop was the processing of organic waste to fertilisers for the production of safe food and the protection of the environment. Like this an interlinking of the farmers with the fisher villages in which the bio fertiliser produced was achieved, to create a for both sides beneficial relation. The workshops for secure environment and sustainable agriculture facilitate the formation of a network between fishers and farmers to counteract a part of the waste problems.

6. Networking

Networking with village community leaders, elected representatives, Government Officials and NGOs has been strengthened because they are the key stakeholders in the region. The activities of the project are informed to them.

9 network meetings on women rights, negative impact of dowry system, child rights protection, human rights, peace, information on Government Schemes, development planning network system for Kanyakumari District, and alternative energy is bound to increase the work of the implementing organizations by realizing all the sub goals especially the work for strengthening the community and training the community leaders in the upcoming project period.

695 families have gained direct supports related to social welfare measures of Government during April 2016 to September 2016. They have gained welfare benefits and certificates for eligibility for schemes through the intervention of the implementing organizations. With the support of project activities, desperate old age people from the project area have received old age pension benefits from the department of social welfare. Similarly, widows and Differently abled persons have also received the pension from the department. Rotary Community Corps, a people's organisation consists of 34 women with 5 executive members has been started to implement Rotary schemes at grassroots level.

7. Other Activities

a. IEC Materials

IEC Training materials for women and community are developed and circulated in meetings. An article on "Livelihood options for Coastal People – A Post Tsunami Perspective" was published in the journal of National Workshop on Bio Diversity and Conservation of Aquatic Resources (Bio CAR 2016).

87 Beneficiaries have read the IEC materials and gained information about the project measures. IEC materials are useful for the trained beneficiaries in understanding the workshops and meetings that they have attended, listened and interacted with the resource persons during these events.

Beneficiaries are expected to use the knowledge gained through IEC materials in the upcoming period of this continuing phase of the project.

b. Consumer Awareness

In our effort to educate the consumers about their rights, HEAL has taken this initiative. The market is constantly being flooded with new products and services, making it difficult for consumers to choose the right products.

Consumer awareness campaigns enable people to ask questions, to learn the specifics of a product or service. These campaigns help rural masses to compare products and services from different sellers and acquire more information. They help them to have the freedom to choose what best suits

consumer needs without harming the consumers. Consumers are now aware of their rights.

Consumers are no more accepting the substandard quality products, poor service, billing errors, late deliveries and unordered merchandise. Consumers are aware of their right to speak up and voice their dissatisfaction. In case of unresolved problems with the seller, they seek recourse from state and local consumer protection forums. Companies and retail shops could not take advantage of their ignorance or reluctance to ask questions about the product or to take action in case of defect/deficiency in the goods or the services.

During the reporting period, we have been asking people to raise their voices against such malpractices and ask for the right value of their money. HEAL has been spreading the message on consumer awareness and rights of the consumers in its target villages. Financial literacy campaign gave us an opportunity to talk to people in more than 20 villages and make them aware of misleading offers, especially in investments and chit funds

8. Monitoring

HEAL conducted monthly review of the activities implemented with the staffs during this reporting period. All the staff participates in the staff review meetings. Monthly work plan are developed and implemented. Core Action Group is formed in each organization for the implementation of the project. Core staffs of the project have participated in 3 such meetings and 1 financial review meetings conducted collectively for the whole project. Totally, 4 Core Action Group meetings and 2 monitoring visits are conducted besides regular monitoring visits by the Directors of 3 project implementing organizations.

Activities of the each organization and work plan of each organization are tabled, discussed and reviewed in Core Action Group meetings moderated by Mr. P.E. Reji, Deputy Regional Coordinator, Dr. T. Arul Roncalli, Programme Coordinator, and Ms. Cynthia Xavier of terre des hommes, South Asia and Southern Office respectively. Mrs. Shiji Alfred, Administrative Executive of terre des hommes, Southern Office has conducted financial review meetings with the guidelines of

BMZ for 3 organizations separately. Auditor Mr. Chellappan of the project has moderated 1 Core Action Group meeting.

Regular monitoring of the programs and activities are conducted at field and office level. Regular monitoring of the programmes and activities have enabled the staffs to improve their capacities to identify shortcomings, if any, in project implementation. Effective monitoring has identified gaps and strategies required.

Core Action Group meetings and monitoring visits have overseen, coordinated the implementation holistically to achieve good results as per the overarching objective, overall goal and 4 sub Goals of the continuing phase of the project.

9. Capacity Building of Staff members

Refresher Training for Animators

HEAL understands that a well-trained Animators is critical to achieving the desired return on social investment. Experienced Animator trainers help people to understand the applications by teaching you how to use it in the context of your work environment. We review the capabilities of Animators and train them with refresher courses to equip them with skills.

Orientation to community volunteers on SR

Sexual and reproductive health includes a range of issues that affect the health of youth at all stages in their lives. Driven by women's and human rights movements, there has been a shift in the international arena from primarily focusing on population control and safe motherhood towards more inclusive and rights-based approaches to sexual and reproductive health.

In addition to maternal and neonatal, health, family planning and other aspects of reproductive health, sexual health is key. Both HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) have a dramatic impact on the social and economic circumstances of both individuals and societies. Improvements in sexual and reproductive health require more than a biomedical response; effective responses focus to gender roles, identities, social norms, values and address deep taboos.

These factors all contribute substantially to the type of interventions that health managers and professionals need to provide.

Hence, HEAL arranged orientation programmes to community volunteers on sexual rights and health rights.